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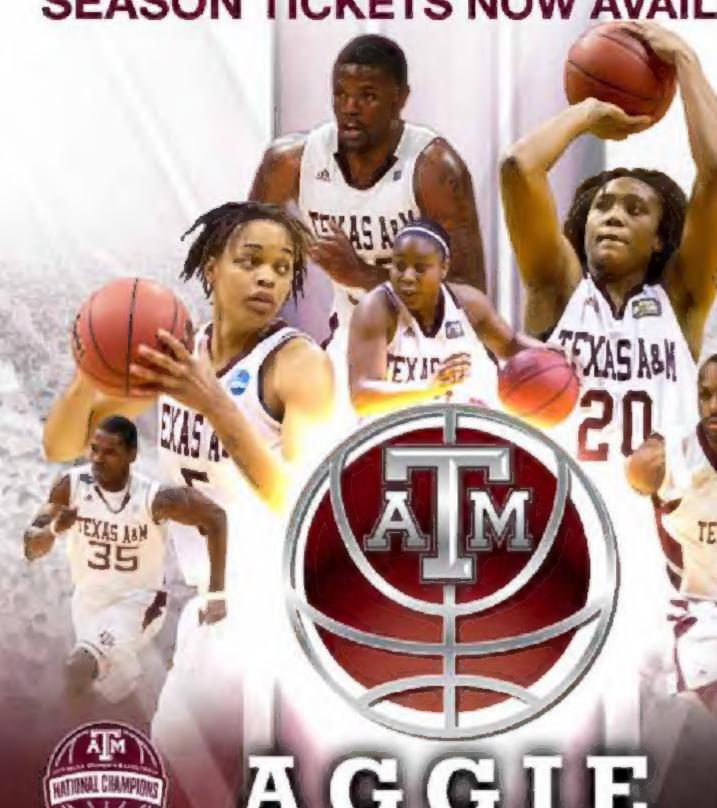






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Jan. 28 OKLAHOMA STATE*

Feb. 1 BAYLOR*

Feb. 6 TEXAS*

Feb. 18 MISSOURI*

Feb. 22 KANSAS*

Feb. 28 KANSAS STATE*



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BY BRIAN DAVIS '01

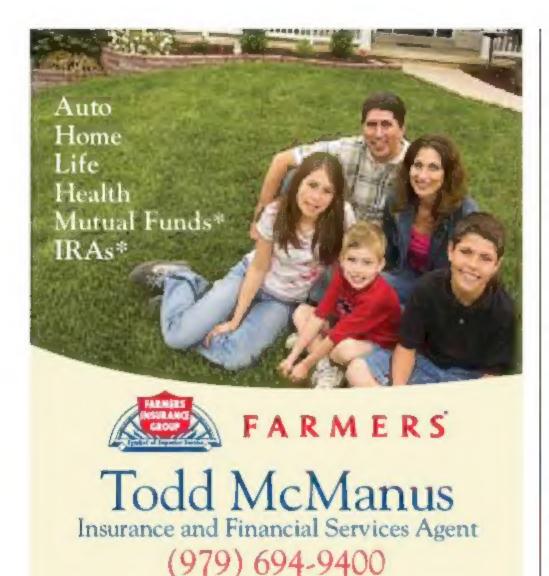
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FIND THE 01

On the Cover: Texas A&M becomes the 13th member of the Southeastern Conference.



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Howdy!

S-E-C, S-E-C! Doesn't it feel good to finally be able to call Texas A&M an official member of the nation's premier athletic conference?

Okay, so maybe it's not officially "official" until July 1, 2012, but you know what I mean. The amount of hate coming from Waco, Austin and even some national media outlets towards A&M during the conference realignment adventure was starting to get a little old.

Unfortunately, it's becoming apparent now that the hate has not gone away. Instead, it has transformed into a mission by our neighbor universities to boycott the Aggies by refusing to play them in any sport for the foreseeable future. Remember when Baylor's Ken Starr was pleading to keep the precious state rivalries intact? That, my friends, is hypocrisy at its finest.

The truth is, the Longhorns will probably be just fine without playing the Aggies unless their season ticket holders start grumbling about their laughable home football schedule. However, if Waco's economy really is as dependent on Aggie fans visiting as Starr and company have led us to believe, then the Bears are only hurting themselves more by boycotting A&M teams.

Here's a news flash for our soon to be former conference mates... Texas A&M is going to be just fine without playing you ever again if that's what it comes to. The Aggies just joined the strongest conference in the country – so strong that it does not have any exit fees because no one wants to leave. Good luck keeping the Big 12 (-2-1+1-1?+1?) together for another few years as you force teams to sign all their rights away in blood.

For now, the Aggies shall continue their Big 12 farewell tour. They have already secured "scoreboard" over Texas Tech and Baylor, and the final meeting with Texas is just around the corner. It really is a shame that bruised egos in Austin have killed one of the most storied rivalries in all of college athletics, but, alas, life will go on.

As President Loftin said, this was a 100-year decision for Texas A&M, and I will always admire him for making it and sticking with it through all of the obstacles he faced along the way.

Lastly, here are several things to look forward to when the Aggies do "officially" join the SEC next summer:

Conference pride: It might take an adjustment period to get used to a conference where each school supports one another when facing opponents from other conferences.

Tailgating: Aggies who think they know how to tailgate are in for an awakening when they go on SEC road trips and see pregame festivities that are on another level.

Mascots: Reveille will have some canine company in the SEC with UGA. (Georgia's English buildog), Smokey (Tennessee's bluetick coonhound) and Bully (Mississippi State's English buildog).

School spirit: Texas A&M will feel right at home with the tradition-rich schools in the SEC, however, the Aggles may have to make some changes in seating for students and the band to comply with conference rules. With change in the air, perhaps it's time for A&M to add a pom squad (in addition to yell leaders) to the already stellar game day atmosphere.

Gig'em Ags!

Bun 101

Did you know that we give away tickets to A&M sporting events on Twitter and Facebook? Follow us @aggiemag or fan us on Facebook to keep in the know on all of our contests and ticket giveaways.



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welcome to the sec

Southeastern Conference commissioner Mike Slive and Texas A&M University president Dr. R. Bowen Loftin answer questions from the media during the Aggies' SEC celebration at the Kyle Field Zone Club. This historic event was scheduled and reschedule multiple times throughout A&M's conference realignment adventure. Photo by Jason McConnell '01 (Inset by Brian Davis '01).











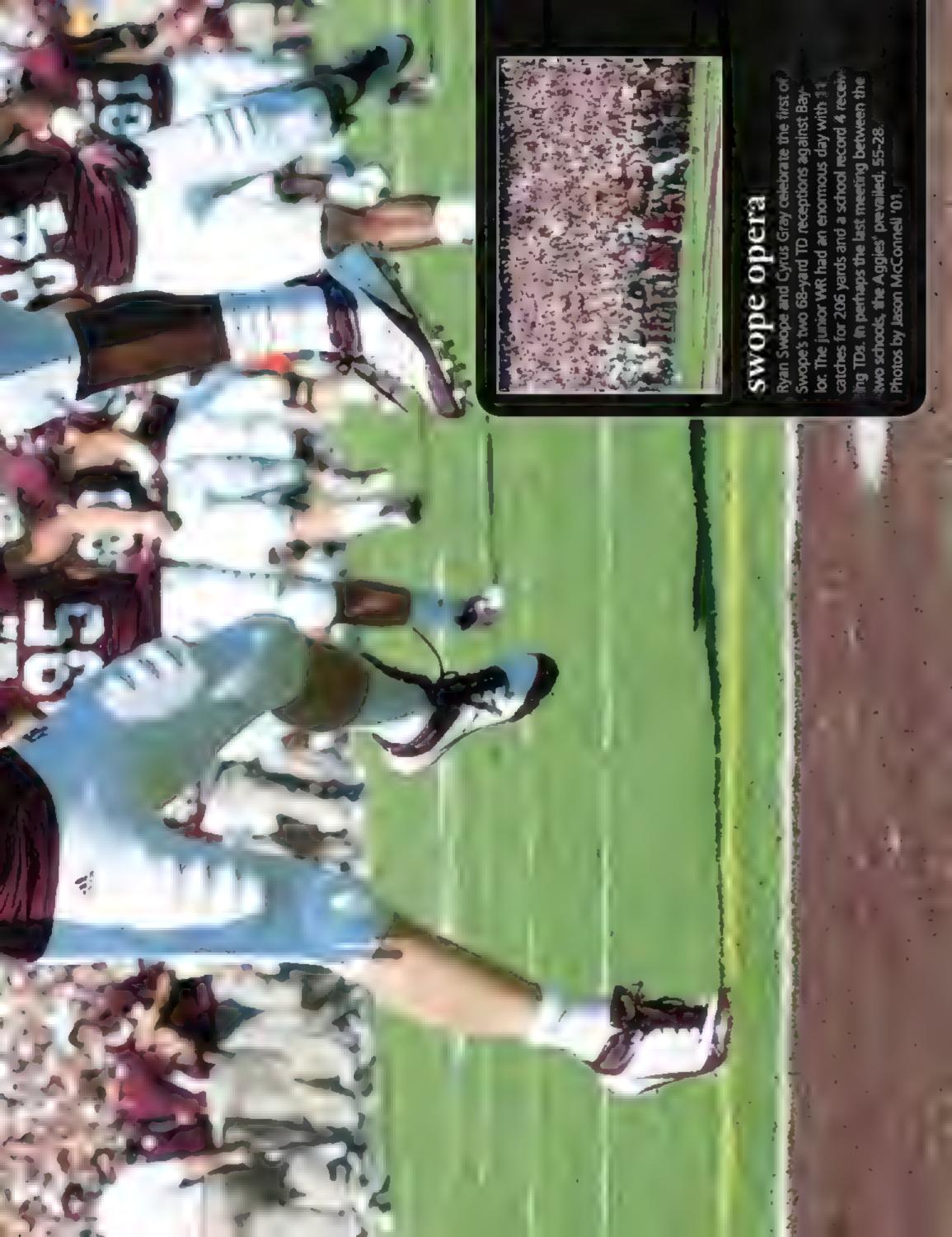




royal treatment

President Obama congratulates the national champion Texas A&M women's basketball team at the White House Rose Garden. Coach Gary Blair presented Obama with jerseys for himself and the first lady, and the president gave Logan Burch (left), Blair's grandson, a note excusing his absence from school. While in DC, the Aggies toured the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, the U.S. Capitol and the White House, and held a youth clinic at the White House basketball court. Photos by Texas A&M Athletics Media Relations.











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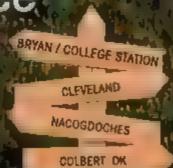
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Recruiting in the SEC BY JEREMY KSIONLA 04

Now that the Ags are officially on their way to the Southeastern Conference, big changes are on the horizon on the recruiting trail.

First and foremost, Texas A&M is going to have to recruit some SEC caliber athletes. Those players typically have three characteristics: Size, speed and some nasty combinations of both.

When A&M played LSU in the Cotton Bowl, it was obvious to even the most casual observer that the Aggies didn't have enough talent and depth to compete for four quarters against the Tigers. Less than a year later, LSU sits atop the national rankings with one of the biggest, fastest and deepest squads in the country.

On one hand, that should make Aggie fans feel a little better about that Cotton Bowl loss. On the other hand, A&M will have to play the Tigers every season beginning in 2012 in addition to Arkansas, Alabama, Auburn and the rest of the teams in the nation's premier athletic conference. That means the Aggres will need to close the talent gap between their future SEC foes in order to climb to the top. What's the solution? Well, not

to oversimplify, but the answer lies in the lifeblood of collegiate athletics - recruit-

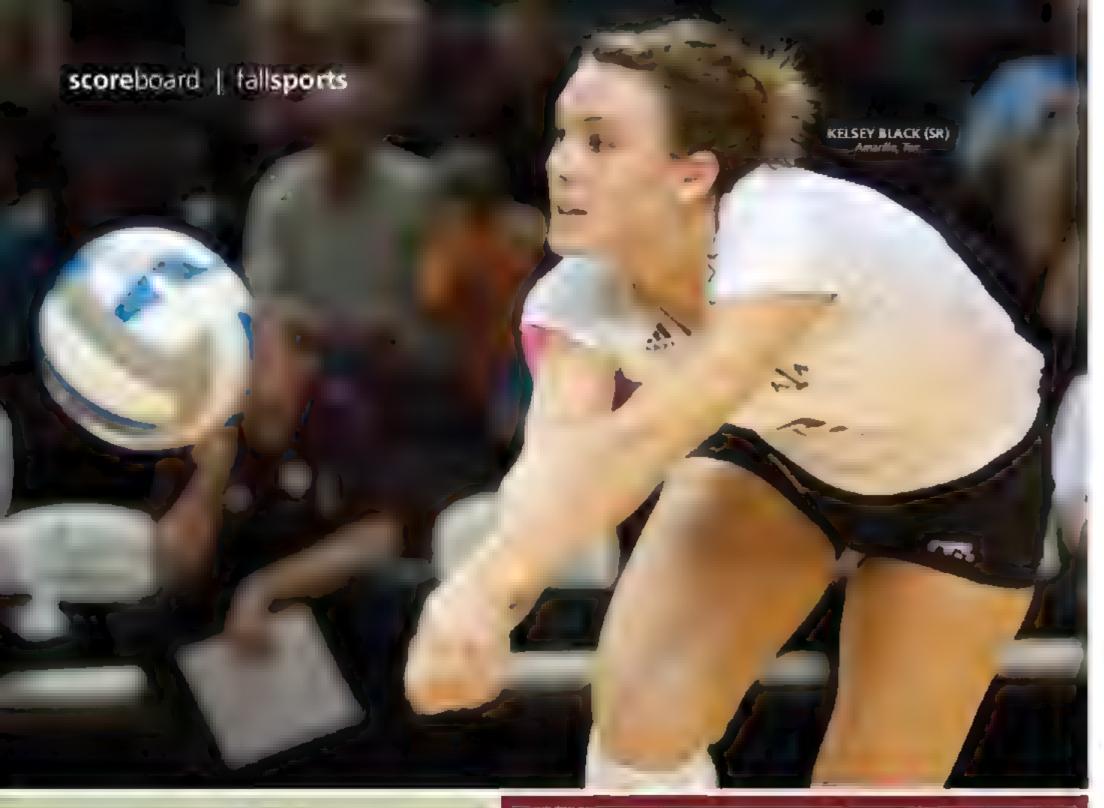
SEC battles are typically won and lost in the trenches, so the Aggies' first priority is building some quality depth along the defensive line. Texas A&M has hosted several defensive linemen recruits for games this fall, including five star Aziz Shittu (6-3, 275) of Atwater, CA and a pair of junior college standouts - Damien Jacobs (6-4, 300) of East Mississippi Community College and Darrington Sentimore (6-3, 295) of Gulf Coast Community College in Mississippi. While landing any of these three would be considered a tremendous coup, the Aggres will need to sign at least two, and perhaps as many as four prospects who are at or near their caliber.

Currently, the Aggres have just two defensive linemen commutted - Blinn's Logan David (6-4, 345) and Long Beach Poly's Alonzo Williams (6-5, 240). Unfortunately, David's academic status is somewhat of an unknown, and Williams has frequented the USC and UCLA campuses since moving to the Golden State.



Although it's going to be a tough road to tow, A&M defensive line coach Terrell Williams is one of the best recruiters on staff, and his ability to sell guaranteed immediate playing time in the nation's best football conference should make the Aggies a premier destination for some of the most coveted defensive linemen in the nation. M

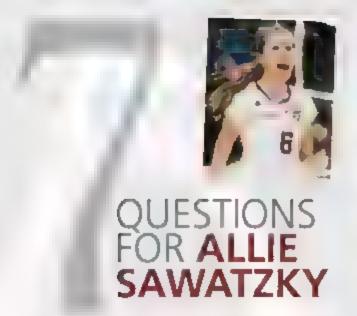






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How did you get interested in volleyball?

but my middle sisters. We were all into sport but my middle sister went to play volleyball at egon State and that's what sparked my est in playing and a second a second and a

How did you find Texas A&M from Manitoba, Canada?

My dad and I did some research and disschools that needed a setter. We sent letters and if they reprint the sent letters being came up to Canada to watch me play

How did you become a setter?

When I was in the sixth grade I was a soft ball pitcher. I got tracked my growth process out what it was. I was to play volteyball I wanted the coach told me to set I did and it rick I probably wouldn't have chosen it, but we it now.

What makes a good setter?

es the bar ally well Es and a second

At what point do you know which way you're going to set the ball for your teammates?

ed out, and I try to watch the block. Other sits just a spur of the sits of the teammates don't know which way it's going that it

Were you surprised that you started every game last year as a freshman?

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What did the struggles last year teach you and the team?

We had eight or the first had the.

We learned that we have to keep pushing the whole way and can't give up. All that work is did in the first four sets doesn't matter lose the fifth. The experience of known, leets to lose and not get what you want is planting as even harger this year.







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THE PERFECT MATCH

From Birmingham to Chapel Hill to College Station, Merritt Mathias found her home

Not many college athletes can say they won with their dream school and also won against them. That is reality for Merritt Mathias, a senior soccer player at Texas A&M.

Born and raised in Birmingham, Ala., Mathias began playing soccer at a very early age.

"You wouldn't know it now, but I was one of the shyest kids in class," Mathias admitted.

In fact, her kindergarten teacher recommended that Mathias get involved in sports to build her confidence level. Taking the teacher's advice, her parents tried her out in softball and soccer.

"After my dad watched a softball game and a soccer game, he said, 'I am not watching softball in 102 degree heat in the summer, so you're playing soccer," Mathias recalled laughing.

It worked out for the best, as Mathias was a natural on the soccer field. She grew up idolizing soccer hall of famer and fellow Alabama native M1a Hamm. In college, Hamm was an All-Amertean who led North Carolina to four national championships.

"I wanted to go to North Carolina and be just like Mia Hanim," Mathias said. "I wanted to be that player, so I did everything I could to make that happen."

Mathias graduated from Oak Mountain HS in 2008 and fulfilled her dream of becoming a Tar Heel as one of the top-ranked recruits in the nation. As a freshman, she played in 20 matches including one in College Station, Texas against Texas A&M.

Mathias was blown away by the atmosphere in Aggreland and she was exposed to Texas A&M soccer several more times by the end of her sophomore season. At that point, she knew it was time to make a change and that Aggreland was where she wanted to be.

As a first-year transfer at A&M in 2010, Mathias started 20 matches, scoring a team third-best nine goals. She was named





to the All-Big 12 first team and the Big 12 All-Newcomer team.

Now a senior, Mathias is one of the leaders of a young Aggie team. The youthful roster was prevalent in A&M's first seven matches of the season. Two days after a disappointing 7-2 loss to No. 6 Duke at the Duke Nike Classic, the team was 4-3 and facing Mathias' old team—No. 1 North Carolina. The Aggies were about to grow up in a hurry and Mathias was ready.

"The atmosphere felt different," she recalled. "Something was there that had not been all season.

North Carolina scored to take a 3-1 lead early in the second half, but the Aggres never gave up. In the 71st minute, junior Nora Skelton put in a goal after a great pass from Mathias, cutting the lead to one. Then, on a corner kick, Mathias put the ball on freshman Meghan Streight's head and she finished it, tying the game. The Tar Heels couldn't get past the swarming Aggre defense as the clock ran out in regulation.

"I looked around at my team and we were still ready to play, but North Carolina was on their knees, exhausted," Mathias recalled. "Momentum and everything was on our side. This was the perfect storm for it to go our way."

The team was ready for overtime. The Aggres won possession of the opening throw in and quickly got the ball to Shea Groom. The speedy freshman zoomed past defenders and scored the golden goal to give Texas A&M its second victory all-time against the 21-time national champion Tar Heels.

"I was so proud of Shea to be a freshman in that situation and handle it like she's been here for four years," Mathias said. "I give credit to her and the team. It was amazing."

The match was only the second time in UNC history that the team gave up three consecutive goals. Needless to say, emotions ran high after the Aggies pulled off the unlikely 4-3 overtime victory, especially for Mathias.

"I looked at Phil [Coach Phil Stephenson], grabbed him and just started crying," Mathias said.

It was a special moment for the former Tar Heel – beating her former school. Head coach G. Guerrieri credited Mathias for not only playing her heart out on the field, but also raising the rest of the team to another level to win the game.

Now on the verge of starting postseason play, Mathias knows the Aggies will likely see North Carolina again if they go as deep in the NCAA tournament as they hope to. If that happens, Mathias will make sure they are ready.

"It's always hard to beat a team twice, but it's always fun." IN











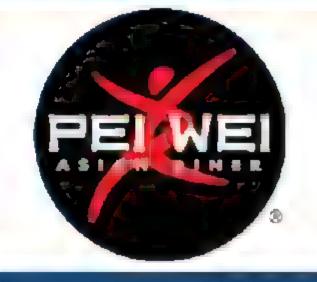
Aggieland Illustrated and these businesses would like to congratulate Texas A&M on joining the nation's premier athletic conference.

Good luck in the SEC!













WELCOME TO THE SEC

Texas A&M's persistence pays off at the end of a wild conference realignment roller coaster

BY BRIAN DAV 5 '01 AND ASON MCCONNELL 01 On September 26, 2011, it was finally time for Texas A&M to have its day in the sun. What began with a phone call in late July, finally culminated with a jubilant celebration on a beautiful September day at The Zone Club inside Kyle Field.

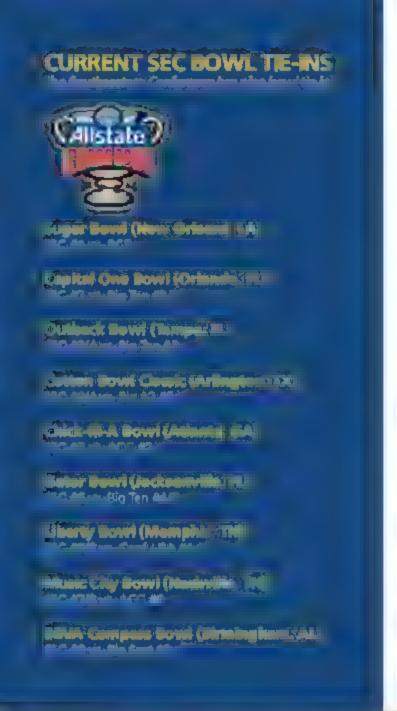
"This is an historic time in Aggieland," Texas A&M president R. Bowen Loftin proclaimed. "Yesterday, the Southeastern Conference (SEC) – the nation's preeminent collegiate athletic conference – invited Texas A&M to become its 13th member, effective July 1, 2012. And we have accepted enthusiastically."

Like Texas A&M, eight SFC institutions were created as landgrant universities. And, like A&M, SEC members celebrate their rich history and unique traditions. It's a natural fit for many more reasons, yet it still seems surreal that it has finally happened.

In the following pages, AI takes a closer look at the SEC and Texas A&M's journey to get to its new home.

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AI'S DREAM 2012 TEXAS A&M FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

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9/15 at SMU

another former SWC rival

9/22 Air Force

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9/29 at Ole Miss

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10/6 Arkansas (Cowboys Stadium)

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10/13 Auburn

10/20 Bye Week

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10/27 at Tennessee

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11/17 at Mississippi State

A&M head coa

11/23 LSU

Editor's Note: Als propored intodute a ball

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2011 A&M to SEC Timeline

The Texas A&M Board of Regents meet and discuss the current state of affairs of the Big 12 Conference. Following the meeting, president R. Bowen Loftin describes the Big 12's current situation as uncertain, problematic and troubling

President Loftin calls Southeastern Conterence commissioner Mike Slive to initiate conversations about Texas A&M

July 21



The Midnight Yell biog unveils the details of the contract between the University of Texas and ESPN (themidnightyell blogspot com). August 7

Big 12 athletic directors and presidents meet via teleconference to discuss the future of Texas A&M in the conference

President Loftin meets with Texas A&M head coaches to discuss the SEC

August 13

The SEC presidents meet to discuss the criteria and process associated with expansion, but take no action in regards to adding members.

as the SEC declining to offer A&M an invitation to the league

August 14

Baylor president Ken Starr writes an op-ed in USA Today that "one institution's rumored conference shift has caused an earthquake that threatens to set off a tsunami of changes around much of the country"

August 17





TONGHODY

August 1

In response to concerns about the Longhorn Network's attempt to televise high school football games, the Big 12 Conference agrees to a one-year moratonum on broadcasting high school games on member networks

August 12

"S-E-C" chants break out during A&M's summer commencement ceremony

The Texas A&M Board of Regents post a meeting for August 15, to discuss "conference alignment."

August 11

State RepliDan Branch, chairman of the Texas House Committee on Higher Education, calls a hearing for August 16 to discuss A&W's possible move to the SEC



August 16

Economist Ray Perryman releases a report daiming that if A&M were to leave the Big 12, the state would lose 3,050 jobs and \$217.2 million each year.



August 15

The Texas House Committee on Higher Education cancers the hearing to discuss A&M's possible move to the SEC.

The Texas A&M Board of Regents give President Loftin authority to negotiate all conference matters. Loftin calls his task a "100 year decision."

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE MILESTONES

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TOP 10 CONFERENCE REALIGNMENT TWEETERS

Media members. Aggre fans and a fake conference commissioner top our list of the best tweerers during fexas A&M's conference realignment adventure



01. @DanBeebe Fake Big 12 Commissioner



02. ORichardJustice



03. @Andy Staples Sports Hustrarer



04. @BillyLiucci rexAgs.com



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08. @HopWebsider Aggie Websider



09. @spadilly Aggie Fan

10. @Ranger222 Appetar.





Texas A&M receives a letter from Big 12 commissioner Dan Beebe outlining the w thorawal procedures August 29

Texas A&M notifies the Big 12 that the institution will submit an application. to join another athletic conference, and if accepted, A&M will end its membership in the Big 12 effective June 30, 2012 August 31

The SEC is notified that at least one institution. Baylor) is withdrawing its previous consent and is considering legal action

SEC presidents vote unanimously to accept A&M as the league's 13th member upon receiving acceptable. reconfirmation that the Big 12 and its members have reaffirmed the letter from September 2

September 6

Mike Slive states that in 78 years, the SEC has only accepted membership. applications from three institutions - Arkansas, South Carolina and now Texas A&M: "When Texas A&M: joins our conference, we don't have immediate plans for a 14th member 7

September 12

Oklahoma makes demands from the Big 12 for them. to stay in the conference, including firing Dan Beebe

The Paci 12 announces that it has no intentions of expanding. OL president David Boren responds. saying his school decided not to apply to the Pac 12



Texas athletic director DeLoss Dodds says the university is focused on "the Big 12, period" and vows that he and other conference leaders will take steps to ensure the long term stability of the league



September 21

September 20

Dan Beebe fired as Big 12 commissioner September 22

August 25

Texas A&M notifies the Big 12 that it is exploring options related to the institution's athletic conference attitlation Texas A&M also requested that the Bio. 12 outline the process to be followed should the university elect to withdraw from the conference.

September 2

Jan Beebe sends a letter to Mike Slive prodaiming

that the Big 12 and its members will not take any legal action against the SEC relating to A&M's departure from the conference

Okiahoma president David Boren adds more uncertainty to the Big 12's future. by saying OU will not be a wallf ower during conference realignment

September 19

Board of Regents at Oklahoma and Texas meet to empower their presidents to make decisions. on conference affiliation

A group of A&M fans put up a billboard near Baylor's football stadium in Waco as a friendly reminder to the Bears that "Thou shalt not cover thy neighbor's conference deal."







September 26

Texas A&M hosts an official kick off celebration in The Zone Club with Dr. Bernie Machen and Mike Silve finally welcoming the Aggies to the SEC

September 25

The SEC announces that Texas A&M. will officially join the conference as its 13th member on July 1, 2012



UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Founded in 1831 as Alabama's first public college

Errorment 30,232
Nickname CRIMSON TIDE
Colors CRIMSON AND WHITE

An Lime Record 802-319-43 e Record 296-63-3

A grage Home Attendance 101,821

13 14. 1 19 32-22-3 1 2011 CAPITAL ONE BOWL

13 hr ent 2009 22 hr h 2009

TENNESSEE

A at 1-3 Most Recent 1988
Notable Game 1968 COTTON BOWL
TEXAS A&M 20, #8 ALABAMA 16

women's Gymnastics (2011)

SOFTBALL (2010, 2011)
WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS (2009, 2011)

Notable Alumn JOE NAMATH, BART STARR, DERRICK THOMAS, PAUL "BEAR" BRYANT, SELA WARD

mprised of over 330 ** Jents, the

MILUON DOLLAR BAND is the largest single
rganization on campus. It began as a military

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Editor's Note Mass on the state as an this trestain are as at Aut.





UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

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Capacity 72,000 (Sportstice Powers Average Home Attendance 68,961

Mascot "TUSK" (Live Russian Boar)

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CHOP" WC 2 5 2 4 # "BOSS HOG"

ootball Coach BOBBY PETRINO

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Rivals LSU

2011 ALLSTATE SUGAR BOWL

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A 24-41 3 2011

Last National Championship (Non-footba MEN'S INDOOR TRACK (2006)

Recent SEC Championships (Non-F MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY (2010) MEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD (2011) Notable Alumn JERRY JONES, CLIFF LEE, JOHN DALY, PAT SUMMERALL, BARRY LURDICENT

CALUNG THE HOGS since the 1920s

This tradition, which refers to the school

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participated in all the formalities of the N
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AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Auburn, Ala (Population 53, 380)

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TIS BURNT ORANGE AND NAVY SLUE

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EQUESTRIAN (2011)

MEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING (1997-2011)
WOMEN'S GOLF (2009, 2011)

Notable Alumn CHARLES BARKLEY, CAM NEWTON, TIM COOK (APPLE), BO JACKSON

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LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Baton Rouge, La (Population 229,553)

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C → S PURPLE AND GOLD

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20-27-3 (Most Recent 2011)

BASEBALL (2009)

WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD (2011)
WOMEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD (2011)

MARAVICH, HUBERT HUMPHREY, JAMES CARVILLE

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MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

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OLE MISS

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r 17 -

Recent SEC Championships (N MEN'S BASKETBALL (2009) BASEBALL (2005)

Notable Aumni JOHN GRISHAM, RAFAEL PALMEIRO, WILL CLARK, BUCK SHOWALTER

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quads representing Miss. ssippi A 5.4.4 → vere proud to be U AGGIES, a e. It is no Mississipe ge in 1932 the (michalite Marour uniform color, gained prominena

teams in 1961, not long after State. tranted university dat

became the official file for State





UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPL

Oxford, Miss (Population 14,147) Chartered in 1844 a 11 graph to the institution of higher learning

Enroi ment 19,536 Nickname REBELS Colors CARDINAL RED AND NAVY BLUE

An Time Record 619-476-35 Home Kecord 225-78-8

Stad um VAUGHT HEMINGWAY STADIUM Capacity 60,580 (FieldTurl) Average Home Attendance 55,898

Mascot "REBEL BLACK BEAR" (Costumes See Replaced Colonel Reb as the official ma

Football Comb HOUSTON NUTT

Re 22-16 t Her Her ord 133-86

Bowl Record 21-12 Most Recent 2010 AT&T COTTON BOWL

^ 1962 , 6 11 1963

 ™ S MISSISSIPPI STATE (Egg 5 LSU (Magnoria Bowl)

Ole Miss vs. Texas A A-v 4-0 Most Recent 1980 fers and h Miss have on , h . . t nu no co tield - mi Winning ** ** *

Recent SEC Championships 1000 to 1000 BASEBALL (2006, 2009)

Notable Arumni WILLIAM FAULKNER, ARCHIE MANNING, ELI MANNING, MICHAEL OHER (THE BLIND SIDE)

The growname OLE MISS was 1.196 when it was selected in * will text!, . we tudent tion, the yearbook if e name gradually e synonymous with in chool and i * treasured segme | Lits history

... the Holy Grail of tailgating sites" by revis. THE GROVE is a 10-acre plot of grour he center of campus willy shaded by large oak ti 'm susands of fan irn out in ties and sses on fall Sat , for elaporate e parties in The before football thes. An unofficial m We may 1 H 3 3 + 7 + but we never lose a p + 1

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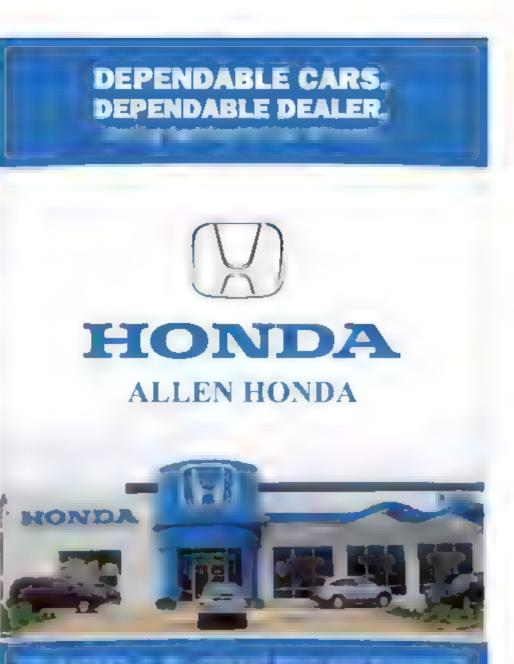










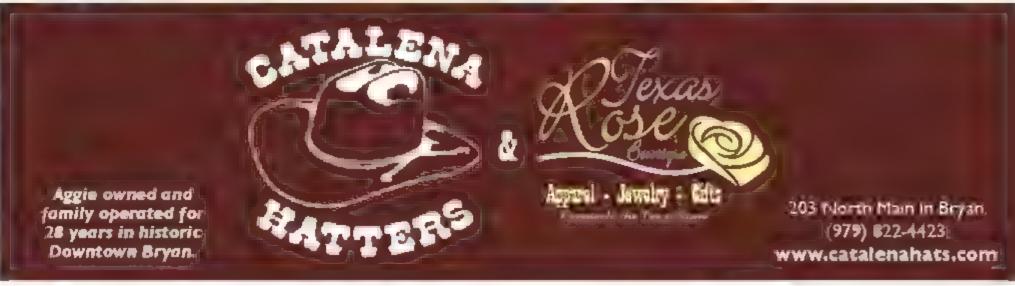












UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

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A 662-379-40 · 298-95-13

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Bowl Record 19-19 Most Recent 2011 OUTBACK BOWL

1 3 Most Recent 2008 , 8 Most Recent 2008

FLORIDA STATE OFFICIAL PROPERTY OF THE PROPE

r 1. / 451 4817 - 1-1 Most Recent 1977

N 1977 SUN BOWL #10 TEXAS A&M 37, #20 FLORIDA 14

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adal francesia Circli (profising 1) WOMEN'S TENNIS (2011)

n e f it te 2011: BASEBALL, MEN'S INDOOR TRACK, MEN'S GOLF, MEN'S/WOMEN'S TENNIS

S SA A EMMITT SMITH, ERIN ANDREWS, BOB GRAHAM, BOB VILA, FAYE DOMESTICAL

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UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

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Most Recent 2010 AUTOZONE LIBERTY BOWL

bs 2 Most Recent 1980 12 Most Recent 2005

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. 3-2 Most Recent 2009 Notable Game 1950 PRESIDENTIAL CUP TEXAS A&M 40, GEORGIA 20

Bob Smith opened the game vii

edat feurosciones en on fair EQUESTRIAN (2010)

Alle and a simple of parties orders WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING (2011) MEN'S TENNIS (2011)

. umn KIM BASINGER, RYAN SEACREST, HERSCHEL WALKER, DOMINIQUE WILKINS, PHIL GRAMM

BETWEEN THE HEDGES is a reference to

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TIP, I detait it the 5 REDCOAT BAND 105 Oct. = + , 4' + - + , 103/2-17 4





UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Lexington, Ky (Population 295,803) the state of the state of

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ment 28,000 Nickname WILDCATS BLUE AND WHITE

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bm COMMONWEALTH STADIUM -, scity 67,606 (Bermuda Grass)

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 ball Coach JOKER PHILLIPS cord at Sch to 6-7 erall Record 6-7

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2011 BBVA COMPASS BOWL

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LOUISVILLE (Battle for the Governor's Cup. TENNESSEE Battle for the Barre

1-1 1953 . . 4 / LTX A No. of Proceedings RIFLE (2011)

1 SEC Championships (N MEN'S BASKETBALL (2010-11)

BASEBALL (2006)

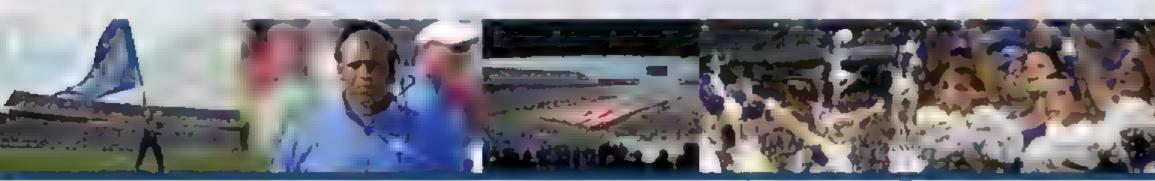
. Riumn ASHLEY JUDD, MITCH MCCONNELL, PAT RILEY, HOWARD SCHNELLENBERGER, JOHN WALL, JAMAL MANAGEMENT

- - the tank " the Kentucky VV aca . — d to as the BIG BLUE NATION.

* WILDCATS **, Fant Phoip ✓ + " ty' 'r of the t , to remove the section of the secti the second of the second of the call to the second of the , T , T , F 4 q q n 2 9 4 A M A A A → b. I U_{V.} → MEN'S BASKETBALL

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Columbia, \$C (Population 129, 272) Founded as South Carolina College in 1801 in in effort to promot - rmony between the state's Lowcountry d Backcountry

Enroi ment 29,957 N dename GAMECOCKS Colors GARNET AND BLACK

An Time kecord 543-541-44 Home Recard 252-177-14

ad um WILLIAMS BRICE STADIUM *P= Cty 80,250 (G == 4 erage Home Attendance 76,668

N's cot "COCKY" (Costumed Gamecock Mascot of the Year in 1986, 1994 and 2004 Football Coach STEVE SPURRIER Record at School 44-33 Overall Record 233-114-2

Bowl Record 4-12 Most Recent 2010 CHICK-FIL-A BOWL

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Rivals CLEMSON (The Palmetto Bowl) GEORGIA The Border Bash

South Carina exas A&M The Aggie i amecocks have never met on " - " - the 2011 Co - + HIM TO ME IN A TA TA THE TATE OF na to the state of the

Last National Championship (Non-Football, BASEBALL (2010, 2011)

Recent SEC Championships (Non-Footbail) BASE8ALL (2011) SOCCER (2009)

Notable Alumn DARIUS RUCKER, MOOKIE WILSON, DAN REEVES, DAVID HOUSTON (PRESIDENT OF TEXAS A&M AND TEXAS)

.. » . · · · inique form of COCKABOOSE RAILROAD about 1 - new Gamerock " amenities such as, running water. - * sion air conditioning and heating ving room The Carolina Cockabooses mary and many are wired with closs ron to vatch Gamecock away

games if making the trip is not feasible.

The porting News rated USC's 2001 as the t exciting pregame entry in all of college. football. As the minutes wind down prior to the as a soft to page a assemble in · rtp , . . . rer of Nullan b um Then a the cr su of more than egins its roar of anticipation, the first If the theme song from "2001-A Space / -- biate over the stadium sound sy tem A - Sic continues, the enthusia in it he - --- evensh Finally, in perfect coording on . • music, the Gamecocks hit the field and the stadium goes wild





UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

Knoxy te Tenn (Population 1/88/4)

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Notable Game 1957 GATOR BOWL

#13 TENNESSEE 3, #9 TEXAS A&M 0

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WOMEN'S INDOOR (2011)

Recent SEC Championships (Non-Foot) WOMEN'S BASKETBALL (2010-11) SOFTBALL (2011)

Notable A umn REGGIE WHITE, PEYTON MANNING, AL GORE, PHIL GARNER

→ The property of the PRIDE OF THE SOUTHLAND BAND COMMENT AND A STOP

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VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

h. hy le Tenn (Population 635,710, Established in 1873 by the Methodist Epi Church South from an endowment by

Enrorment 5,750 Nickriame COMMODORES Colors BLACK AND GOLD

An Time Record 557-568-50 Home Record 60-107-1

Stad um VANDERBILT STADIUM Capacity 39,773 (Grass) Average Home Attendance 33,269

Mascot "MR C" (Costumed Commodore) complete with multion 1, 1/2, 1, 1

Football Coach JAMES FRANKLIN Record at School 0-0

Bowl Record 2-1-1 Most Recent 2008 MUSIC CITY BOWL

National Championships 0 SEC Championships 0

Overall Record 0-0

Rivals.

TENNESSEE OLE MISS

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Last National Championship (Non-Football, WOMEN'S BOWLING (2007)

Recent SEC Champ ships (Non-Footbail BASEBALL (2011) WOMEN'S BASKETBALL (2009)

Notable Aumni MOLLY SIMS, JOE BOB **BRIGGS, AMY GRANT, FRED THOMPSON**

 tilt is currently ti - Division 1 school f 31 4 d 31,

 terbilt has a number of football traditions e COMMODORE CREED in the football ---- room, the CORRIDOR OF CAPTAINS that honors Vanderbilt's athletics history, the STAR WALK with fars, cheerleaders, and the If Gold Marching Band, the STAR V, ar on-field formation by the marching band, the TOUCHDOWN FOGHORN from a U.S. Navi leship that sounds when Vanderbilt scores FRESHMAN WALK by first-year students rushing the football field before kickoff of each s home open, the VICTORY FLAG that - ed over Dudley Field after home wins and the singing of the ALMA MATER at the conclusion of a game.

Vanderbilt fight song, DYNAMITE. re-rences the vigor with which Vanderbilt plays ye ; " + -nite stass" - " + Jo . Histry's fans ... The to June of the , me I true game M

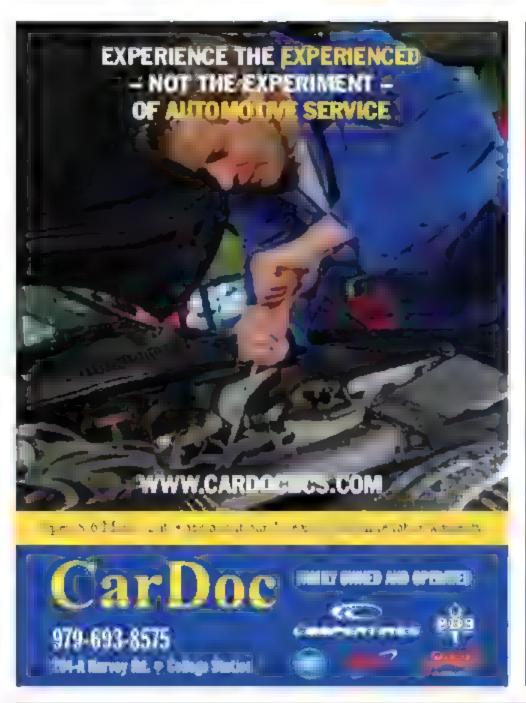




















"If I had eleven Patrick Lewises I would never lose a football game. When he leaves, it will be an emotional day for me."

HEAL C'ACHT, EF STERMAN

Patrick Lewis never thought he would have the opportunity to play Division 1 football. The Louisiana native was not heavily recruited by LSU and other D1 schools because of his height.

However, things changed when East St. John HS coach Larry Dauterive contacted his good friend Mike Sherman about some prospects he thought the Aggies needed to see. The A&M head coach sent then-defensive line coach and area recruiter Buddy Wyatt to visit the school and pick up some film. However, Lewis wasn't expecting anything out of the visit because of everything the other big schools had said.

"I was just thinking, whatever – they are probably going to brush me off and I'll play ball at a small school," Lewis recalled.

A couple of days later, Lewis received a call from a 979 area code, not knowing who it could be. Wyatt was on the other line telling Lewis that he wanted him to visit because Sherman wanted to see him in person. Two days later, Lewis got a scholarship offer from the Aggres.

"I was surprised Coach Sherman offered me, being the man that he is with the Packers and NFL prominence," Lewis recalled. "I knew I had to come here."

Fellow Louisiana natives Jonathan Stewart and Michael Lamothe joined Lewis in the Aggies' 2009 signing class, as Sherman made recruiting the Pelican State one of his top priorities when he took the job.

"You have to have Louisiana on your team," Lewis said. "Not just to have success because you could stay in Texas for success, but it adds another spice."

As a true freshman, Lewis saw action in 12 of the Aggies' 13 games in 2009. He made his first career start at guard in the fifth game of the year against Oklahoma State and hasn't left the starting lineup since. As a cornerstone of A&M's offen-

sive front, Lewis earned honorable mention All-Big 12 honors as a freshman in 2009 and again in 2010 after starting all 13 games as a sophomore.

With Matt Allen graduating last year, Lewis knew a move to center was coming for his junior season. He was ready when spring football practice started, but didn't take the initiative to tell offensive line coach Jim Turner he was ready to take the position. However, when the coaches called upon him towards the end of the spring, he was ready for the challenge.

"I was steady in my guard position, but when the coaches asked me, 'Patrick, do you want to play center today?' there was no second guessing."

The vocal aspect of the position was the toughest part for Lewis to adjust to. He had to make all the calls, make sure everyone was in the right spot, and take on a leadership role and the responsibility of the offensive line.

"It was shocking at first," Lewis admitted. "But Danny Baker and I worked together to get everything down. I'm really happy about the role I'm taking on this football team."

The A&M offense continues to put up record numbers this season and Lewis is a big reason why. His power and understanding of the game has made the transition from guard to center go smoothly.

"If I had eleven Patrick Lewises I would never lose a football game," Sherman said. "When he leaves, it will be an emotional day for me."

Lewis thinks that highly of his coach, as well.

"He gave me the chance to play in big time college football and I will really appreciate that until the day I die," Lewis said. "I'll be able to tell my kids that my first BCS offer came from Coach Sherman. It was a blessing that he came into my life and gave me this opportunity."

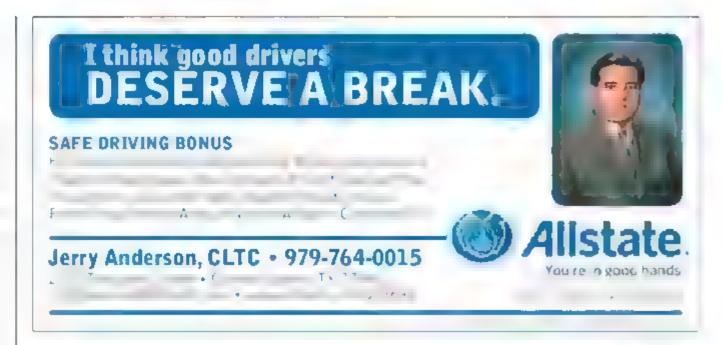
Patrick Lewis on wearing No. 61:

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Patrick Lewis on food:

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Game Day Dresses Sewing and Alterations

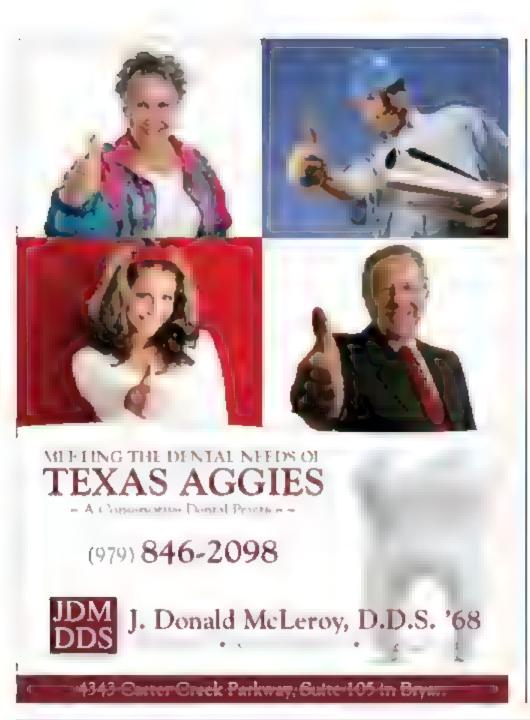
gamedaydress.com or Find us on Facebook Across the street from Kyle Field!

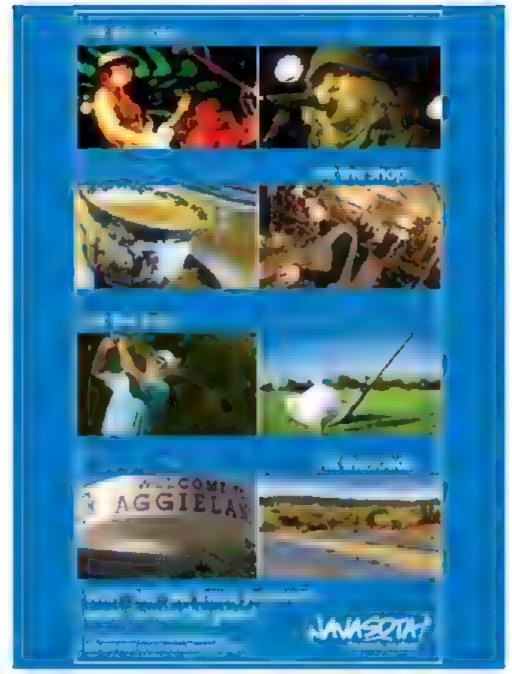
316 George Gusty Dr.

College Station

(979) 693-9357













▲ PHOTO OF THE GAME [SMd]



[GAME 2: **A&M 37**, IDAHO 7]

PHOTO OF THE GAME [DAHO] ▶

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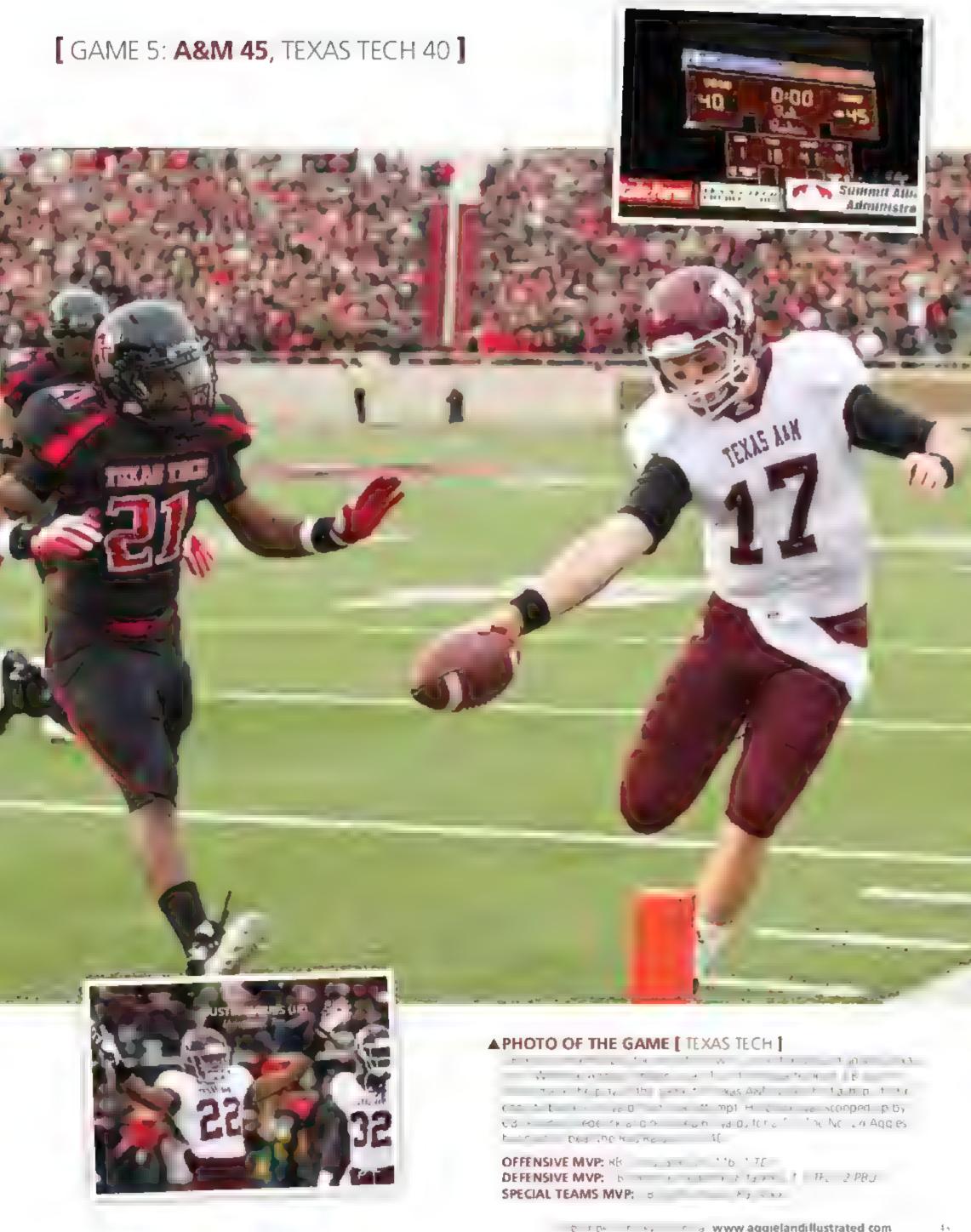
PHOTO OF THE GAME [Ok. AHR, MA STATE] >

▼ PHOTO OF THE GAME [ARKANSAS]

And wope took a short, the second seco











QUESTIONS FOR SENIOR BEN BASS

What did you have to do in order to get back on the team last fall after becoming academically ineligible?

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How have you progressed on the field?

When a got here I was ast string Bet first day and second day of practice, I to live I make a string to first string. Then they move

Do you like your role on the defense?

How has Coach Williams helped you?

What younger guys on the defensive line have impressed you?

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SPECIAL TEAMS MVP:

What are your favorite techniques when rushing the passer?

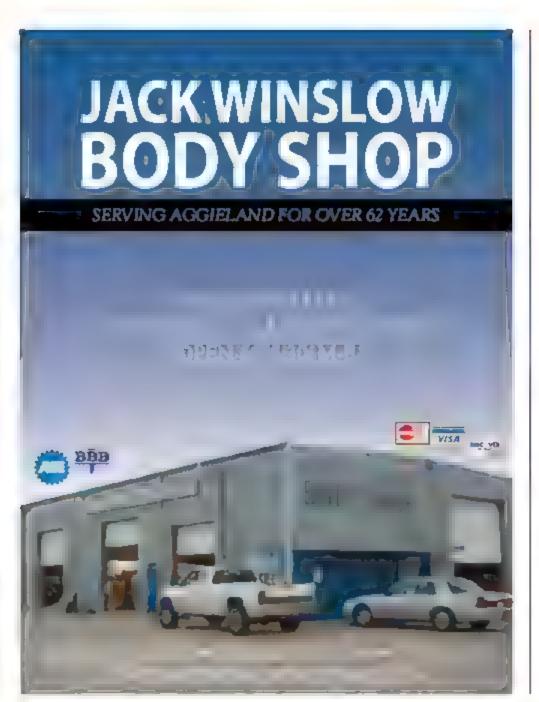
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Do you have a different perspective because of what you went through?

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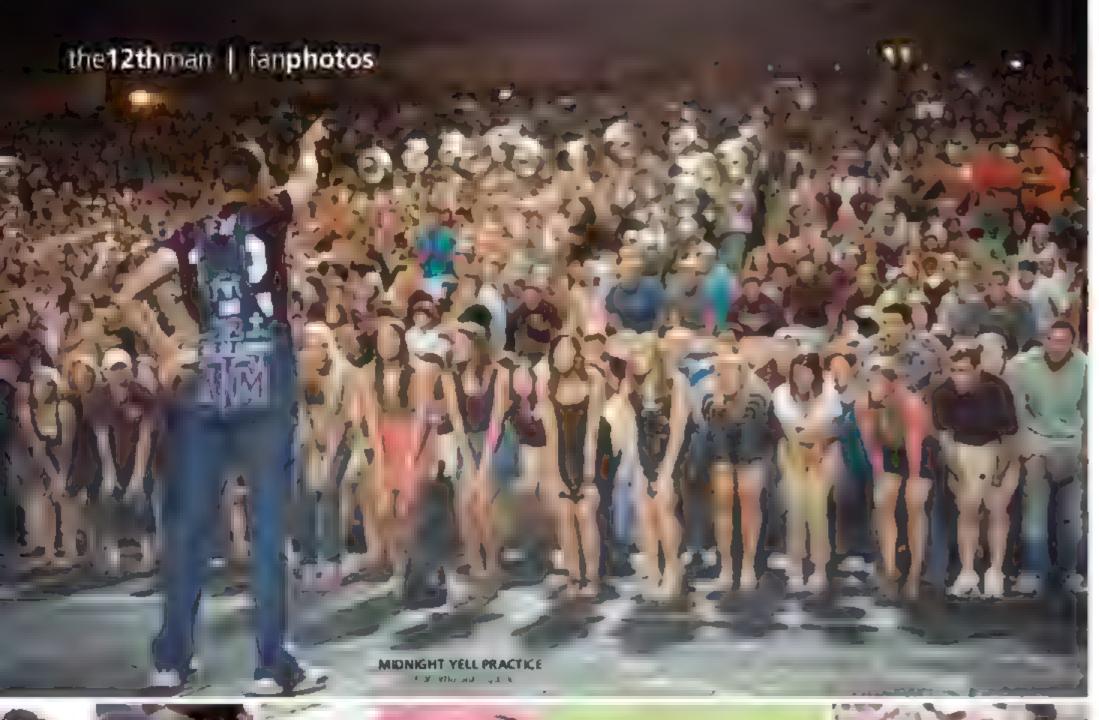
Do you use your experience to help the younger guys stay focused?

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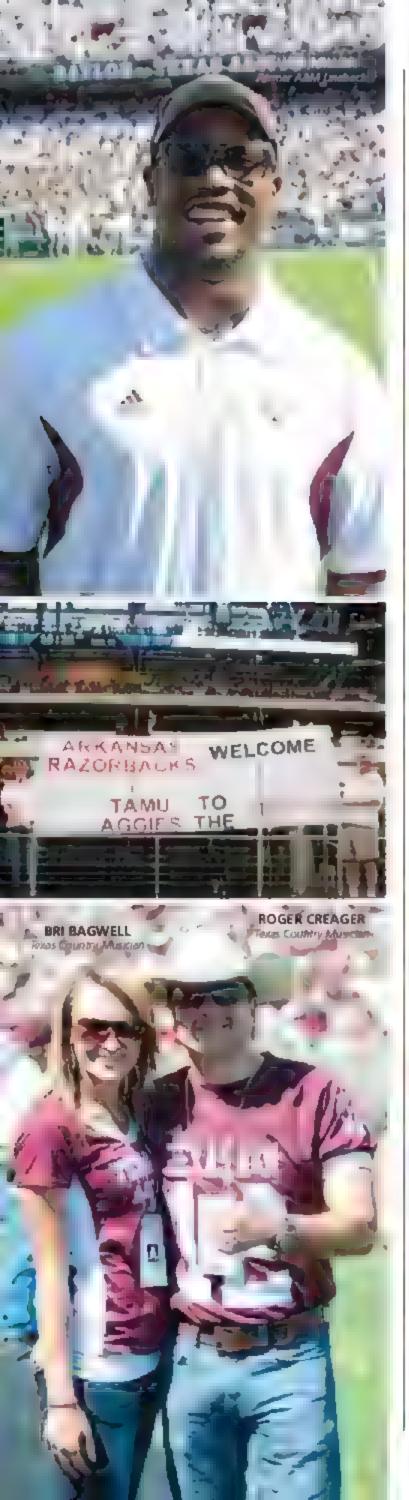




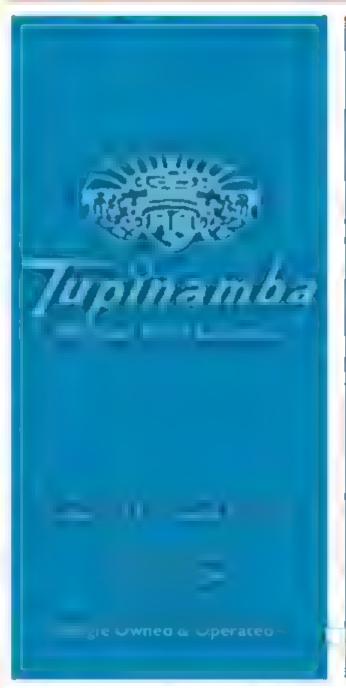












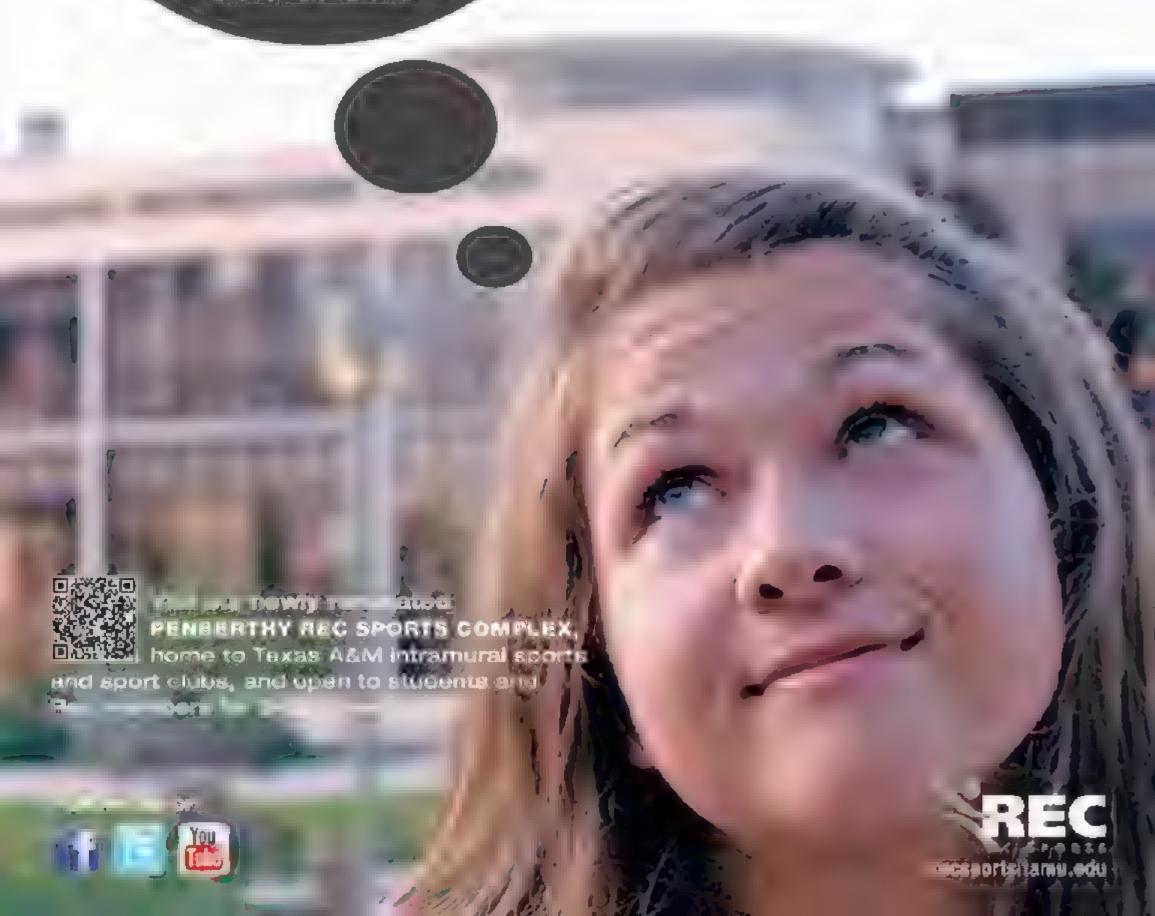




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BY BRIAN DAVIS '01

CYCLING

A lot of kids grow up riding their bikes to school or to their friends' houses. The freedom to go whenever, wherever makes a child and his bicycle nearly inseparable. That is until they get their hands on a set of car keys. That's when the bike ends up collecting dust in the corner of the garage.

However, for Andrew Carlberg '12 and this group of current students, rarely does a day go by when they aren't riding their bicycles somewhere around Aggieland. Carlberg is the president of the Texas A&M cycling team – one of the most popular sport clubs on campus.

The club was founded in 1976 as a competitive cycling team, and in 1977, it was recognized by the University Extramural Sports Association. Today, the team is as strong as ever, competing in the South Central Collegiate Cycling Conference with 16 schools in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana.

Each semester, there are five or more weekends of races hosted by the various schools in the conference. The Aggies compete in four categories – road (spring), mountain (fall), track (summer) and cyclocross. After the season, the team sends several riders to nationals to compete in each of the disciplines.

Membership to the team is open to anyone, but only full-time Texas A&M students are eligible to compete in collegiate races.

"About 60 percent of our members do their first race through the team," Carlberg said. "We don't have a coach so it's up to the older riders to teach things like tactics and how to train properly. Through this mix of new and experienced cyclists there is really a spot on the team for everyone."

There isn't a requirement on how much you have to train, but the team organizes daily rides for anyone who wants to tag along and get a workout in. Some days are harder than others and on Tuesdays, the team simulates a race. Carlberg tries to train almost every day for a total of about 10 to 15 hours on the bike a week.

"My favorite part about the team is the amount of fun we have," Carlberg said. "Meetings are generally funny, trips are always memorable and hilarious and the amount of friends you make is amazing."

MEN'S WATER POLO

If you are a fan of Olympic sports, you have likely watched water polo competitions at the highest level. Men's water polo has been part of the Summer Olympics program since the second games, in 1900.

At Texas A&M, men's water polo is one of the most unique clubs on campus. Unlike nearly every other club, the members never have to pay any dues. The Aggies are funded by Kyle Field Cleanup, which occurs Sunday mornings following home football games.

"Water Polo used to be a varsity sport at A&M," explains club president Max Bernau '13," however in 1972, when Title IX was signed into law, water polo got bumped to a club program. To offset this loss, the university gave us Kyle Field Cleanup. To this day, the water polo team still runs the cleanup of Kyle Field after every home football game and it's a privilege for which we are thankful."

In the water, the Aggies are one of the top collegiate programs in the country, competing in the eight-team Texas Division of the Collegiate Water Polo Association. They play three tournaments in the fall excluding nationals. The first place team in Texas moves on to the national championship.

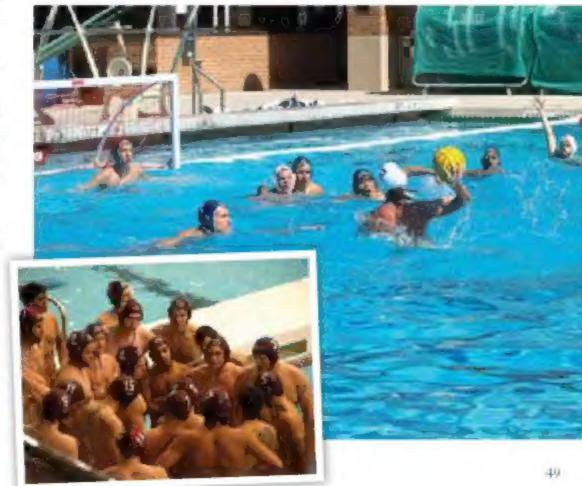
The team practices two hours a day, four days a week. Usually they begin with swim sets and then strengthen their legs by treading water while holding weights. The rest of practice is spent running drills and scrimmaging. Most of the members played water polo in high school or with a club team, but anyone is welcome to try out.

"A good water polo player needs strong legs to tread water during the game," Bernau said. "Endurance is key as swimming can be very strenuous. As with any team sport, water polo players must be able to work together and pass the ball around in order to get a good shot on the goal."

In addition to being a fun way to work out, the club is a great way to meet friends.

"My favorite thing about playing polo for Texas A&M is the competition and camaraderie," Bernau said.

Visit recsports.tamu.edu for more information about Texas A&M cycling or men's water polo.



SECede!

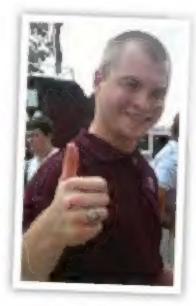


Howdy!

Although some students are concerned how we will fair in the SEC, most are more than excited for the change and understand the various advantages of moving to the nation's premier conference.

Considering the numerous national titles A&M has either won or contended for recently, I think the Aggies will do more than hold their own. Let's be serious – football is what's on everybody's mind, and I think it's important to recognize how far we've come in such short time. I remember my freshman year going 4-8 (Fall '08), then how excited everyone was just to make a bowl game the next season. With recruiting at an all time high and an A-list coaching staff, I believe things will only go up from here.

"As far as the SEC move goes, I think it's two-fold, Both the SEC and A&M will benefit from the move it establishes us as the only school in the SEC within Texas, this will be HUGE for us in recruiting. For the SEC, they get a passionate fan base that blends in perfectly with the attitudes and culture of the SEC. We not only bring a rising



football team, but other great athletic programs that have had recent national success.

We also bring our great academic reputation."

— TAYLOR ANDRUS '12

"I'm excited about the opportunity to road trip. I'm anticipating the drive with friends to Tuscaloosa, Baton Rouge and Fayetteville. I've never considered making a drive to Lubbock or Waco. I'm also happy to be headed to a conference where there is a

greater sense of equality among schools, getting away from a Texas-ran Big 12." — DONAMAN HANKSTON 11

Of course leaving the Big 12 means leaving behind old standing rivalries that we will all miss (or not). It's safe to say the student population did not take well to the negative light that was being cast upon A&M by Baylor during the Aggies' move to the SEC. These "It Sucks to BU" shirts, for sale at Aggieland Outfitters, would be appropriate to wear for all remaining games against Baylor.



A friend of mine who recently graduated from A&M and is now attending law school at Baylor offered her opinion:



I'm proud of Texas
A&M's leaders for
taking the initiative
and doing what they
believe is right for our
university. I receive
Baylor pride' emails
to my student account, and there have
been many official
statements by Baylor

leaders accusing A&M of 'setting a bad example for the young minds on campus and causing an anarchy in college athletics.' I would have more respect for Baylor's efforts if they would acknowledge they are acting with the same incentives as Texas A&M, to stay in the most profitable, recognizable conference available to them. The defamatory remarks about A&M's decisions are unnecessary and highly hypocritical. If Baylor was capable of entering the SEC Conference, lets face it, the Big 12 would be saying bye to their Baptists."

- KATE BEARD '11

Speaking of the Baylor game, a Texas A&M student group made up of representatives from over 25 campus organizations created Aggie Wildfire Relief to raise funds through the sale of maroon 12th Man towels for the Aggies' game against the Bears to help the victims and volunteer firefighters affected by

the recent wildfires across Texas. I hope it rang a bell with the angry Bear fans that Texas A&M DOES first and foremost have loyalty to our great state.



That said, all we can do is look forward now. Make sure you are following us on twitter @aggiemag and 'Like' us on our facebook page: "Aggieland Illustrated Magazine."

Thanks & Gig'em! - Macy

Editor's Note: In this new regular feature, Al's fantastic intern and social media superstar Macy Savage '12 gives you a pulse on Aggieland from current students' perspectives.

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